

Homelessness MATTERS



December 12th, 2025

IN THIS EDITION:

- **Coalition Advocacy News:** *Advocates Urge Legislature to Advance Code Red & Other Critical Homeless Bills, Response to FY25 NOFO Withdrawal, Childcare Assistance Program Reopens!*
- **Opportunities for Action:** *Tell Congress to Renew CoC Grants and the NJ Assembly to Pass Code Red Bill*
- **Resources for Service Providers:** *How to Communicate with Tenants During Funding Uncertainty and Contingency Planning from the National Alliance*
- **New Jersey Homelessness in the News:** *Federal Policy Change Could Increase Homelessness in NJ, and much more...*
- **News From Around the Country:** *A Call for Corporate America to Step Up on the Homelessness Crisis and much more...*

COALITION ADVOCACY NEWS

Advocates Hold Press Conference, Calling On Legislature to Advance Code Red and Other Critical Homelessness Bills

Advocates and legislative champions held a press conference yesterday urging passage of Code Red (A2248/S2346) to create a statewide protocol for life-threatening heat and air-quality events, prevent the criminalization of homelessness, and restore \$80 million to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Thank you to the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey for organizing the event, and to Senator Timberlake and Assemblyman Atkins for their continued support. The Coalition also testified in support of A3360 to establish municipal housing plans and homelessness trust funds, which advanced through the Assembly Housing Committee!



Coalition Response to HUD's Withdrawal of the FY25 CoC NOFO: Stop Playing with People's Lives- Renew All Expiring Grants Now!

HUD's sudden withdrawal of the FY2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) funding opportunity underscores the urgent need for a responsible path forward: a 12-month renewal of all expiring CoC grants to prevent catastrophic losses and keep people housed. The Coalition opposed the NOFO's severe cuts, which threatened housing for more than 170,000 people, and this abrupt withdrawal has only deepened uncertainty as winter approaches. With roughly one-third of CoC grants expiring between January and June 2026, communities face dangerous funding gaps that could force providers to close their doors. Reissuing a revised NOFO now is unworkable and destabilizing, leaving people who rebuilt their lives after homelessness fearing they may lose their homes once again.

We urge Congress to act immediately: include language in the upcoming appropriations bill directing HUD to renew all FY25 CoC grants and keep people housed.

A Win for NJ Families! Child Care Assistance Program Reopening to Limited Applications, Prioritizing Homeless, Low Income Children, Children with Disabilities

The NJ Department of Human Services (DHS) will be reopening Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to a limited number of new families in January, after freezing all new applications in August.

Priority will be given to families with children experiencing homelessness, children from very low-income households, and children with disabilities who complete the registration form starting in December. Not all applicants who fall into a priority group and are invited to apply may be granted assistance, however, due to limited funding. **Sign up here to be notified when CCAP registration reopens.**

We appreciate DHS' recognition that while all children deserve access to affordable, high-quality childcare, priority must be given to providing childcare for homeless children and families, where the need is greatest. There is still work to be done to ensure state funding is restored for all children and families in need of childcare.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



Keep People Housed: Tell Congress to Direct HUD to Renew All CoC Grants to Avoid Dangerous Funding Gaps!

See the Coalition's response above for more details.

Protect Against Life Threatening Heat & Air Quality Events: Pass Code Red Now!

Heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths. More than 1500 people die from extreme heat each year and more than half of these people are unhoused. If Code Red doesn't pass through the Assembly by January, even though the bill was approved unanimously in the Senate, this bill will have to be reintroduced and go through the Senate and Assembly all over again. We cannot delay when lives are on the line: **tell the NJ Assembly to pass Code Red now!**

RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

Communicating with Tenants During Funding Uncertainty or Possible

Service Disruptions

The National Alliance to End Homelessness has released guidance for service providers on trauma-informed methods to communicate with tenants amid funding uncertainties: <https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Guide-To-Talking-With-Tenants-12.4.25.pdf>

Why You Need to Start Contingency Planning - Now

With the Trump Administration's 2025 pause on federal grants and loans, along with major changes to HUD's Continuum of Care funding, communities are being urged to prepare for significant disruptions to homelessness services. The National Alliance to End Homelessness has developed a three-part [Contingency Planning Toolkit](#) to help local partners assess the impact of funding cuts, prioritize resources, and plan strategically to protect vulnerable households. The toolkit includes a community impact survey, a decision-support tool, and a project-level checklist (coming in early 2026) to guide coordinated, informed planning across the entire safety net.

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



Federal Reversal on Funding to Prevent Homelessness Sparks Confusion, Chaos

New Jersey Monitor

Federal housing officials reversed a controversial policy that advocates warned could have pushed more than 170,000 people, including over 2,400 in New Jersey, into homelessness. The rescinded HUD funding notice would have shifted money from permanent housing to transitional programs with work requirements, creating widespread uncertainty for service providers and vulnerable residents. **Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz, Policy Associate with the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness**, said the backtracking offers temporary relief but warned that unclear future changes continue to put families and formerly homeless individuals at risk. Advocates are urging HUD to delay any new funding shifts to prevent gaps in services and a potential surge in homelessness.



Bill Would Allow NJ Towns to Hike Fees to Fund Homelessness Reduction

New Jersey Monitor

A New Jersey Assembly panel advanced a bill allowing municipalities to create homelessness trust funds by adding small fees to permits and fines, giving local officials new tools to fund affordable housing, vouchers, and supportive services. Lawmakers and advocates stressed the urgency of action as homelessness in the state has risen 8% and safety nets continue to fray. Advocates also urged passage of related protections—including a Homeless Bill of Rights, a statewide Code Red policy, and restoration of \$80 million to the affordable housing trust fund—to prevent further harm to people at risk of losing their homes.



Here's How Our Incoming Governor Can Lead N.J. Out of Its Homelessness Crisis

nj.com

In a forceful op-ed, Coalition Board Member, **Richard Uniacke, president of Bridges Outreach**, warns that homelessness in New Jersey is rising at an unprecedented rate, with more than 34,000 people already entering homelessness this year and the total expected to double by year's end. Drawing on his organization's firsthand work with clients—including veterans forced to choose between food, medication, and rent—Uniacke argues that federal cuts, soaring housing costs, and gaps in basic supports are pushing thousands into crisis. He urges Gov.-elect Mikie Sherrill to make housing stability a top priority by protecting affordable housing funds, expanding prevention programs, and strengthening initiatives like Bringing Veterans Home. Uniacke stresses that New Jersey has the tools to solve this crisis—what's missing is decisive leadership and the will to act.



Federal Policy Change Could Increase Homelessness in NJ, Critics Warn

New Jersey Monitor

New Jersey housing advocates warn the state's growing homeless population could surge sharply under new federal policies that slash funding for permanent housing and penalize programs that use the housing-first model. HUD's changes—stemming from a Trump administration directive—would cut two-thirds of federal permanent-housing funds, shift money to transitional programs with treatment and work requirements, and could push more than 2,000 New Jersey residents into homelessness. Twenty states, including New Jersey, have sued to block the policy, arguing it will destabilize communities, shutter service providers, and reverse years of progress. Advocates say reversing the cuts and increasing investment in rental assistance and supportive services are essential to preventing a major rise in homelessness.



Camden County is Building 60 Efficiency Apartments for People Experiencing Homelessness

Philadelphia Inquirer

Camden County is moving forward with the \$22 million Martin McKernan Supportive Housing Center, a 60-unit facility that will offer emergency and transitional housing along

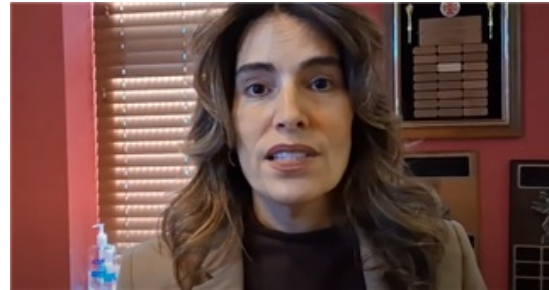
with case-management services for people experiencing homelessness. Local leaders say the project is especially urgent as homelessness in the county has risen 20% since 2020 and federal proposals from the Trump administration threaten major cuts to permanent housing aid. Service providers warn the federal shift could destabilize programs and displace vulnerable residents, making local investments even more critical. For formerly unhoused residents like Patricia Clark, the new center represents a vital lifeline and a hopeful step toward addressing the region's growing housing crisis.



Singleton, McKnight Legislation to Codify Initiative Combatting Veteran Homelessness Advances

NJ Senate Democrats

A Senate committee has advanced legislation to formally establish New Jersey's Bringing Veterans Home Initiative, originally launched in 2024 to end veteran homelessness by ensuring any unhoused veteran can be placed in stable housing within 30 days. Sponsored by Senators Troy Singleton and Angela McKnight, the bill would direct the Department of Community Affairs to create six regional hubs focused on accelerating housing placements and coordinating services for veterans. The measure also requires the use of standardized referrals and data-driven strategies to identify needs and effective interventions. Lawmakers say codifying the initiative will strengthen long-term support systems and help ensure veterans receive the housing assistance they deserve.



Ruiz, Cryan Bill Helping Secure the Financial Future of Children in Foster Care Sent to Governor's Desk

INSIDER NJ

The New Jersey Legislature has passed a bill sponsored by Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz and Senator Joe Cryan that prevents the Department of Children and Families from using a foster child's assets or benefits to pay for their care. Lawmakers stress that preserving these funds is critical to preventing youth from aging out of foster care into homelessness, helping them secure housing, education, and basic necessities as they transition to adulthood. Under the bill, DCF must save a child's benefits in a federally insured account, with limited access only when essential needs exceed the state's obligations. The measure now awaits the Governor's approval.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



A Call for Corporate America to Step Up on Homeless Crisis

The Harvard Gazette

At a Harvard conference on homelessness, experts stressed that addressing the nation's housing crisis requires coordinated action from government, nonprofits, and businesses. Jim O'Connell, founder of the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program, noted that while nonprofits can provide care, solving homelessness demands broader systemic involvement. Speakers highlighted the seven-million-unit national housing deficit and urged corporate America to contribute through funding, policy advocacy, and innovative housing programs. The event emphasized that lasting solutions depend on a whole-of-society approach.



'Placeless' Author Traces the Roots and Realities of Mass Homelessness in America

NPR

In his new book *Placeless: Homelessness in the New Gilded Age*, Patrick Markee traces the roots of America's modern homelessness crisis, arguing it is the visible tip of a broader displacement crisis shaped by economic shifts, policy choices, and systemic inequities. Using New York City as a case study, Markee shows how cuts to federal housing programs, gentrification, and criminalization of street homelessness have disproportionately affected Black and Latino communities. He highlights the failure of "treatment-first" approaches and emphasizes the proven success of housing-first models, which provide stability before requiring rehabilitation. The story in New York mirrors trends nationwide, reflecting how inequality, displacement, and insufficient public housing contribute to a

HUD Temporarily Pauses Homelessness Funding Overhaul Just Ahead of Court Hearing

The Hill

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has temporarily paused a controversial policy overhaul that would have drastically cut funding for permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness. The changes, challenged in two lawsuits by states, local governments, and nonprofits, would have shifted most funds toward temporary transitional housing and added work or service requirements, while allowing restrictions on organizations recognizing transgender or nonbinary individuals. HUD withdrew the notice just before a court hearing, citing the need to reassess the legal challenges and revise the funding plan. The decision highlights the ongoing tension between federal attempts to reform homelessness programs and concerns from local stakeholders about maintaining support for permanent housing solutions.



NYC Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani Plans to Stop Destruction of Homeless Encampments. Here's What He Wants to Do Instead

CBS NEWS

Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani plans to end New York City's policy of dismantling homeless encampments, a practice criticized for moving people rather than getting them into housing. Data show that under Mayor Adams, only a fraction of those removed from the streets were placed in accommodations, highlighting the ineffectiveness of sweeps. Mamdani intends to use his new Department of Community Safety to connect unhoused New Yorkers with supportive, rental, or permanent housing options, emphasizing

crisis impacting millions of students, families, and children across the country.

solutions that address the root causes of homelessness rather than just removing people from sight.



Opinion: Solving Homelessness Requires Housing and Trust in Local Communities

Yahoo! News

An opinion piece warns that Utah’s proposed “megacampus” for homelessness in Salt Lake City could do more harm than good. The plan, championed by Joseph Grenny and The Other Side Academy, would centralize all local homeless services under a single statewide authority, consolidate funding, and emphasize personal accountability, service compliance, and even involuntary detention. The memo from Utah Homeless Services Board dismisses Housing First programs, despite decades of evidence showing they reduce homelessness by 88% and cost roughly \$21,000 per person annually—less than the estimated \$65 per night for the proposed campus. Critics argue centralization would weaken rural and local communities, overlook place-based solutions, and fail to address the root causes of homelessness, including high housing costs and structural barriers. Instead, experts recommend housing-focused, trauma-informed, locally governed programs that respect human dignity and leverage the expertise of providers and people with lived experience.



A New 'Solution' to Student Homelessness: A Parking Lot Where Students Can Sleep Safely in Their Cars

THE HECHINGER REPORT

More than a million U.S. college students — roughly 8% of undergraduates — experience homelessness at some point during their studies. In response, a growing number of campuses are launching “safe parking” and other basic-needs programs: what began as a rare experiment at Long Beach City College is becoming a model for colleges across the country. These efforts — from campus parking lots and showers to emergency housing and wrap-around support — signal a shift among institutions toward treating housing insecurity not as a fringe issue, but as a core challenge that affects student success and equity.

We love to share news about the accomplishments, events job opportunities and noteworthy activities of NJ's homelessness service agencies. If you have something to share, please send it to us at info@NJCEH.org

DONATE TO SUPPORT THE COALITION'S WORK TO END HOMELESSNESS



NJ Coalition to End Homelessness | 10 Mercer Street | Princeton, NJ 08540 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!